

# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Published from time to time for the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association

Volume 2

Number 6

## RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

Report of Herbert Socks, President, Foggy Bottom Restoration Association

During the past two years Foggy Bottom has witnessed phenomenal growth, but, strangely enough, the essential character of the facades that front our streets and courts remains pretty much the same as before our program of restoration began.

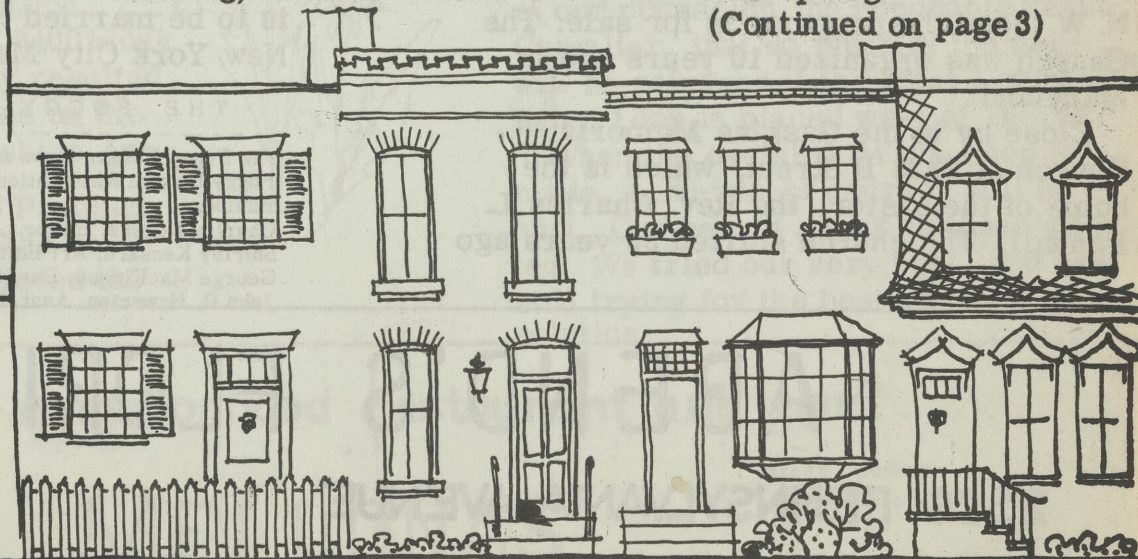
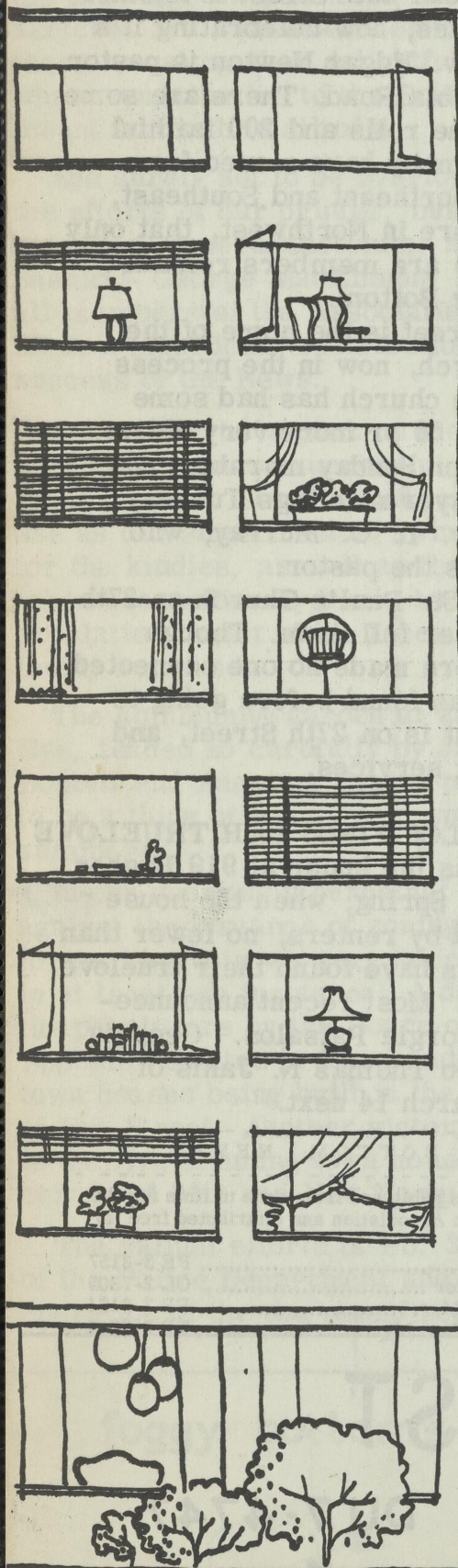
Nevertheless, three large 8-story apartment houses were completed during the last two years, and they are now fully occupied. A 3-story apartment house has just been completed and it too is well on the way to full occupancy. Numerous private homes have been built or restored and occupied.

During this period, too, many problems have arisen to tax us, vex us, try us, some serious in nature, others merely annoying or even amusing. But they all have been given serious thought and attention.

Most significant achievement was probably the announcement of our new zoning regulations May 12, 1958. Up to that time the Bottom had struggled with a hodge-podge of zoning, as practically no restriction had been made as to the type of structure that could be built. The Association struggled long and valiantly for, and finally did achieve, a more restrictive type of zoning which for the most part provides for medium density (3-story apartment houses). Only the outer fringes of the area were zoned for high density apartments (8-story apartment buildings).

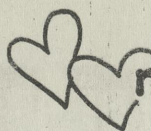
But the battle isn't yet over. A recent decision by the Zoning Commission threatens the entire zoning structure. An appeal to the Commission resulted in a new hearing, to be scheduled some time this spring.

(Continued on page 3)

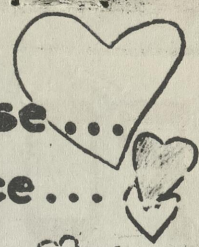




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## THE BAPTISTS OF FOGGY BOTTOM

By Our Church Editor

"Roger Williams would have been pleased with the headway made in Foggy Bottom by the church he founded in America."

So stated the now famous Foggy Bottom News in its first issue, Volume 1, Number 1, February, 1958. But only three of the six Baptist churches of Foggy Bottom were mentioned then.

Perhaps the oldest of the six is Gethsemane, now at 22d Street and Virginia Avenue, considered only on the "petticoats" of Foggy Bottom. The building is well over 100 years old and Gethsemane moved in when St. Michael's and All Angels' Episcopal Chapel moved out, many, many years ago. The Rev. George R. Yancey is the pastor, but like many of his parishioners he lives far away.

Charles Harvey, the sexton, is the brother of the founder of the church and has served as sexton for more than 46 yrs. He is one of the few parishioners still living near the church, but at this writing is very ill and hospitalized.

The Liberty Baptist Church at 817 23rd St. is 90 years old this month. The pastor also lives away from the neighborhood in Northeast Washington. He is the Rev. Wilmore A. Carter. Services, as at Gethsemane, are held each Sunday morning at 11, with prayer meeting Tuesday evenings, as well as Sunday evenings. The members number about 300.

The Rock Creek Baptist Church, which occupied the building at 24th and H Sts., has moved to 8th and Upshur Streets, N. W., and the property is for sale. The Church was organized 10 years ago in Maryland.

Close by is the Gaskins Memorial Church at 2328 H Street, which is the home of the pastor, the Rev. Charles L. Randall. The church started 33 years ago

in Georgetown and moved to H Street comparatively recently. They have some 25 regular attendants at Sunday morning service and at Tuesday evening prayer meetings.

Mt. Lebanon at 824 25th Street is another of the older churches, now celebrating it's 59th year. The Rev. Edgar Newton is pastor but lives on Columbia Road. There are some 450 members on the rolls and 200 faithful in attendance. So many have moved from Foggy Bottom to Northeast and Southeast, as well as elsewhere in Northwest, that only three families who are members remain residents in Foggy Bottom.

Twenty-sixth street is the home of the Morning Star Church, now in the process of renovation. The church has had some 150 members with 50 or more very active. The services are on Sunday mornings and evenings, with prayer meetings Tuesday evenings. The Rev. L. C. Murray, who lives Northeast, is the pastor.

On the Greater St. Paul's Church on 27th Street your reporter fell down. Though many inquiries were made no one connected with the church was found before going to press. But there it is on 27th Street, and apparently holding services.

### GEORGIA PATSALOS FINDS HER TRUE LOVE

Lucky for love is the house at 919 Hughes Court. Since last Spring, when the house was first occupied by renters, no fewer than three of its tenants have found their true love while living there. Most recent announcement is that of Georgia Patsalos. Georgia is to be married to Thomas N. Janis of New York City March 14 next.

#### THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is published from time to time for the Foggy Bottom Restoration Association and distributed free to members.

Charley Rogers, Editor .....	FE 3-3157
Shirley Kennard, Art Editor .....	OL 2-7305
George MacKinnon, Bus. Mgr. ....	FE 3-2134
John B. Howerton, Asst. Bus. Mgr. ....	FE 3-9344

## ABEND'S FLORIST

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On the lighter and brighter side of the ledger we have the Foggy Bottom News. This brain child of our editor, Charley Rogers, has gained city-wide attention, and proved so popular that requests for copies are far in excess of the editions that can be printed. Contributing greatly to the charm of the paper are the beautiful and tender illustrations by the art editor, Shirley Kennard. The greivous loss to the neighborhood of Hunter and Shirley Kennard has been somewhat offset by the drawings in the News. The sketches are a pleasant reminder of these two altogether delightful people whose contribution to the Bottom has meant so much to all of us.

And surely not to be overlooked are the efforts of our printer, business manager, general factotum, and Sheriff - George MacKinnon. Indeed, all members of the Association have made a significant contribution to the success of the News.

In our efforts to perk up the neighborhood, we were successful in having trees planted. Despite their unpredicted use as car stops, and as swinging poles for the kiddies, as well as their mistaken use as fire hydrants by our canine population, most of the trees miraculously survived.

The community garden at 25th and Eye, tended so carefully by Jack Bobbitt and Angelina Brain, promises to be a thing of beauty next spring and summer.

In our seemingly perpetual struggle against the issuance of zoning permits for parking lots we were successful in at least two instances. A denial to the petitioners by the Board of Zoning Appeals resulted in four handsome town houses being built in the 2400 block of Eye Street. Another victory resulted in the five stunning town houses on the corner of 24th and New Hampshire Ave.

The valiant efforts of No. 3 Precinct of the Police Department and the co-operation of the dog pound reduced the

stray dog population to practically nil, much to the relief of some of our builders. (We never did find out how much it cost Binks Kuhn to rip up part of the remodeling job on Eye Street to rescue a mother who had just given birth to a fine litter of pups. The newspaper stories and news pictures, however, were fine publicity for the Bottom!)

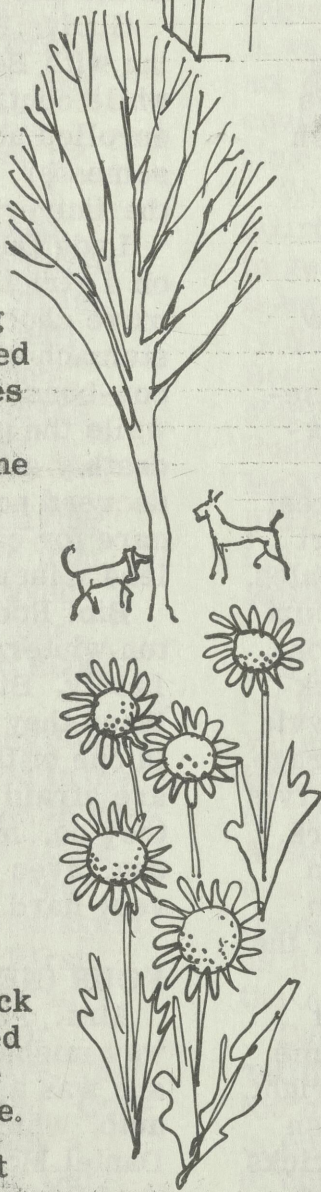
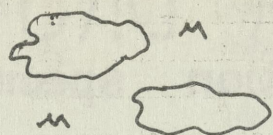
On the more mundane side were the clean-up campaigns by the District Department of Sanitation and the enforcement of the litter law by No. 3 Precinct. Enforcement of the litter law was a great help while the apartments on 25th Street were being built. Most of you will recall, however, that we didn't have too much success in trying to rid the building sites of the privies!

One of the never-to-be-forgotten events of the last two years was the performance of a trained group of choristers, 35 children of the neighborhood, who caroled so beautifully a year ago last Christmas. This production, a brain-child of Angela Nilles, will long be remembered by the children and the residents of the Bottom. Without the capable assistance of Mrs. Dutch and Mrs. McIlvaine, who faithfully trudged through snow and sleet and rain to round up the kiddies for rehearsal, this work would never have been possible.

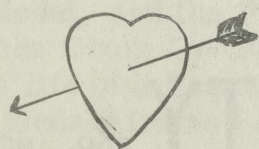
We won't forget in a hurry those wonderful molasses cookies baked especially for one of our meetings by the Misses Griffin and Russell. And the delicious coffee - Wilkins, of course!

However, hanging like a dark cloud on the horizon is the imminence of the West Leg of the Inner Loop. Although of little comfort to those who may be displaced, it is greatly to the credit of our counselor, the Honorable Renah Camalier, that so much of the area will be salvaged if the West Leg of the Inner Loop is placed west of 26th St.

When the decision on the Loop is made, someone, of course, will be hurt. Our hearts go out to those affected. We tried our very best, and are still trying for the best possible solution.



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## MISCHIEF IN HUGHES COURT

Velva Rudd thinks the garage in Hughes Court is beautiful, but that's because she has space in it for her battered old Chevrolet. Everybody else in the court thinks it's an eyesore. Arson and dynamite have been suggested, but the law-abiding element favors a few coats of paint. At any rate, the Daughters of the Restoration ought to put a commemorative plaque on it to signalize a famous underworld character of old Foggy Bottom who slept there. The garage served as headquarters for his empire. It's now owned by an estate, which earns \$45 a month from rentals on three spaces. Maybe the estate would allow Hughes Court householders to take up a freewill collection to paint it.

If a statistician were to take the six row houses in Hughes Court as a sample to determine the make of cars owned by householders in the entire "universe" of the Bottom, he would come up with the following results: 50 percent Volkswagens, 50 percent miscellaneous. The Velks in Hughes Court are owned by Joan Crawley, Georgia Patsalos, and Charley Rogers. Other cars in the court are Benita Belden's shiny new Ford station-wagon, a Cadillac that belongs to our weekender, David Weiss, and Vel Rudd's Chevie that she keeps locked up in her rented garage.

Envy of Hughes Court car owners is Marvin Mohler, the aristocrat who owns a carpark. (We didn't count Marvin's old Plymouth in our statistical study -- his house is not in the row, but stands alone at the corner of the alley entrance to the court.) There's a rumor among the row house dwellers that Marvin intends to paint his house sometime. But the conservatives say it wouldn't be right, because paint might spoil the antique finish on the ancient bricks of the walls. The bricks were made by slave labor on the ancestral plantation in Tidewater Virginia during the 17th century.

There's a possibility that we may have been mistaken about the possum who took up its abode in Virginia Robards' patio last fall. We called the ball of fur Mr. Possum, but maybe we should have said Mrs. Possum. Anyway, he or she is back again, and making a stir as if looking for a comfortable spot to have a spring litter. If the usual number are born there will be enough pet possums for 14 patios in the Bottom.

Gladys Branly of Camaguey, Cuba, is staying with Beverly Zeuschel for two months while continuing her study of English. She was enrolled at the Institute of Languages last semester. In April Gladys plans to return to the University of Havana for further study.

Lady Dusty Reese-Belden has been ordered on a strict diet. No more bones to chew, no more chocolates. She has developed a weak stomach since she got into a two-pound box of bon-bons and consumed the whole lot one day while the girls were away at work. She was deathly sick after that ordeal, and the vet decreed no more bones even. The lady doesn't care for canned dogfood with all them tasteless minerals and vitamins.

Bibi Robards-Crawley doesn't like Washington winters, as he grew up in mild Morocco. Lately, Bibi's taken to snapping at the girls. When they have guests Mr. Bibi gets locked up in one of the bedrooms upstairs, because they are afraid that one who does not love him, as they do, might be rather intolerant of a biting dog, even though little Bibi doesn't really bite very hard.

## FOUR (NEARLY) KILLED IN AUTO WRECK

Mrs. Angela James is still ailing from a highway mishap which demolished the car in which she was a passenger last Christmas eve. Their auto, which was driven by Angela's nephew Daniel McCain, was approaching Baltimore on the highway when it was forced off the slab by a speeding car, and ended upside down. Four in the car were, miraculously, not seriously hurt.

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### WORLD WAR I HERO

This portrait of a young soldier is from a photograph of Louis Abend of Foggy Bottom, taken in 1918, shortly after he won the Distinguished Service Cross in World War I.

For 15 years, and until his sudden death last month, Louis Abend, assisted by Freda, his wife, owned and operated the flower shop at 2509 Pennsylvania Avenue. Following Shiva, the period of mourning prescribed by Jewish religious tradition, Freda took up the work of her husband, alone at the shop. But she declares she never feels alone, either at work or in their home at 1010 25th Street.

"Louis is always here with me," she will tell you. "We had a wonderful life together." And then she will laugh and recall anecdotes that Louis had told her of his soldier life in France.

There was that time he won \$5,000 playing blackjack and went down to Paris to live it up. One thing led to another, and he overstayed his leave. He came to in an open field one morning licking the dew off the grass to slake his thirst.

When he reported for duty his company commander ordered Corporal Abend reduced to the rank of a private. But Louis had a friend in another outfit, a company clerk who knew Louis to be a fine soldier and got him transferred. Pretty soon Private Abend was a corporal again.

This was Company M, 28th Infantry, First Division, AEF. At the Battle of Cantigny in May 1918 Louis's company held its sector against repeated enemy attacks for 8 days. When all the officers in Company M were killed, Corporal Abend, then a lad of 18, but already a seasoned veteran, took command. Using German prisoners to bring up ammunition, the youthful hero created the impression through heavy firing that his lines were much more heavily defended than was actually the case, thus deceiving the enemy.

For this act of extraordinary heroism he was decorated with the DSC, the Silver Star, the Victory Medal, and the Purple Heart, and he received the Croix De-Guerre with Palm, for saving the life of a French officer. Freda has all these medals framed and hanging in the living room of her home.

After the war was won Corporal Abend was chosen as a member of General Pershing's honor guard and paraded before the crowned heads of Europe.

A kind and gentle man was Louis, who dearly loved his family, says Freda, and all agree who knew him, and when he died they lost a true friend.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

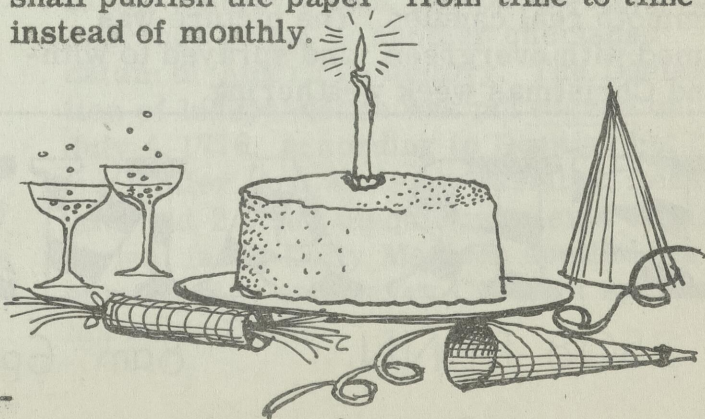
This month marks the first anniversary of the Foggy Bottom News. Since February 1958 we have published a total of 103 pages in our 11 issues -- enough to make a good-sized book. (We skipped July and August, you recall.)

We've met some of the nicest people this past year! In recalling those who helped us, Shirley Kennard's name must come first of all, for it was Shirley's illustrations for our text that gave the paper its artistic distinction. Of the many writers who contributed to our pages, Katharine Brooks gave the most. She it was who wrote as our Church Editor. She not only was that, though, for she always could find it possible to undertake additional time-consuming assignments.

Without the assistance of our block- and court-reporters we should have been reduced to generalities, for they gave us our "names-is-news" accounts of the vibrant life constantly flowing through our colorful community -- Betty Harrison and Forrest Bell on 25th St.; Mary Moynihan in Snows Court; Etta Mai Russell on New Hampshire Ave.; Margaret McKiever in Potomac Plaza; Inez Larson, Harriet Gruger, and Russell Applegate on I St.; Priscilla Johnson on K; and Helen McGrath and Betty Brown for the West Side.

To these names add those of Jack Hicky, who gave us poetry, and Rhea Radin, delightful rhyming -- remember "Sophisticated Village" in our May issue? And among the most, list Herbert Socks, who always backed up loyally and contributed generously with Association news. George MacKinnon and his assistant John Howerton got us enough advertising to net as much clear profit for the paper as it cost to put it out, all of which went into the Association treasury.

But even with all this help, the task of getting out a paper every month has become too much for us, working at it as we do only in our spare time. We have decided therefore to change to an easier schedule. In future, we shall publish the paper "from time to time" instead of monthly.





Marjory Hendricks'

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### SIS CAMPBELL'S MADONNA

The Michelangelo of Foggy Bottom, Sis Campbell, has a serious problem on her hands with regard to the water color that won her the Association's \$25 award for the best Christmas decoration.

A friend of the family wants the picture for a country church with which he is identified and Sis would like to accommodate him. On the other hand, Sis's youngest daughter, Mrs. Hannah-Hooker Acherman of Darien, Conn., also wants it, and feels deeply that it should remain in the family. Sis may end up by keeping the painting herself.

Sis doesn't think we ought to compare her work with that of the 16th century master, though it's true she spent 6 weeks on her hands and knees painting it, somewhat as Michelangelo spent 6 years lying on his back to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

Sis's Madonna and Child, a canvas 4 by 6 feet in size, was too large to set up on an easel in her narrow row house.

Her idea for the picture was based upon an El Greco oil in the National Gallery of Art. She reproduced part of the El Greco masterpiece in the bright colors of the original and with all the elegant refinement of mystical passion that characterized the work of the 16th century expressionist.

Gordon helped with the framing of the picture in their front window, making the two "candles" that flanked it and fixing the illumination for a spotlight in a tree in front of the house.

The "candles" were made out of a wooden roll for a rug that they had recently bought. Gordon cut the roll in two in the middle to make the two tapers, and wired the pieces for their electric "wicks." Sis covered them with plaster of paris to make them look like mammoth real candles. The picture was framed with evergreen, and sprayed to withstand Christmas week weathering.

The picture attracted more than local attention after the Post reproduced it with a story during Christmas week. People came from all over Washington and from the suburbs in nearby Maryland and Virginia to view the lovely painting of the Virgin and Child.

### SNOW'S COURT TRADITION IMPERILED

Another Foggy Bottom institution of hoary tradition is imperiled by the construction of the new 8-story apartment building that is under way at the corner of 25th Street and Snow's Court. An all-hours crap game has been going on as long as the oldest inhabitant can remember in the vacant warehouse in Snow's Court. But the informal casino may have to close down when the new apartment building is completed as it will then obstruct the entrance to the court from 25th Street, conveniently for the gamblers, the sole public entrance available to enforcement officers. Formerly, it was possible for a lookout to observe the approach of a police car or a policeman across the then vacant lot in time to give the alarm to players crouched around the dice so that they could desist, conceal the evidence, and disperse before the cops arrived.

### MRS. MALAPROP AGAIN

A Foggy Bottom friend of ours keeps her husband in stitches all the time by innocently fouling up the spoken word. When she was packing her china for moving recently and wanted excelsior she was surprised to find none of the local stores had any more alfalfa, and at a dinner party given them by her husband's new boss and wife she got into a conversation with her host about soups and declared she liked naval bean best. Other examples of her malaprops follow: A devil-makes-hair attitude... Take it for granite... Do your upmost... Cultivate self-insurance... The reasons are deep-seeded... Spurn him on to better things... You must resume the responsibility... A foreign-hand tie... The larvae from the volcano.

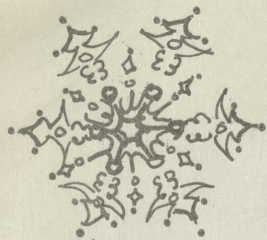
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## SNOWFALL AFTER DARK

By Daniel Whitehead Hicky

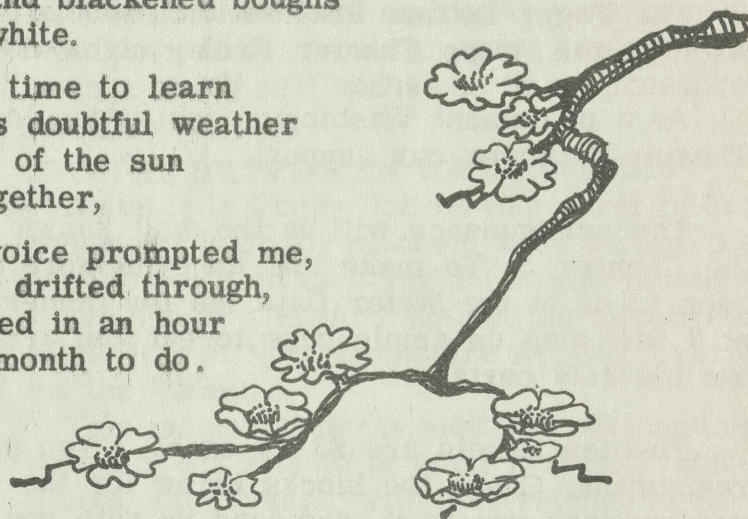


I could not tell by sound of wind  
Nor sighing of a single flake  
Against the pane that all the world  
Lay pale with snow in darkness' wake,

And sad am I that I was left  
Outside this secret of the night  
That turned a thousand blackened boughs  
Into a flowering of white.

Since man has little time to learn  
Through springtime's doubtful weather  
How tireless fingers of the sun  
Put apple blooms together,

Had but the wind's voice prompted me,  
Or hint of snowflake drifted through,  
I could have witnessed in an hour  
What April takes a month to do.



## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEW STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Construction progress on the extension of the State Department building has proceeded at normal levels and the new building is now 35 percent complete. The concrete framing for all 8 floors of the portion of the building fronting on 23rd Street has been poured, and according to schedule this phase of the work should be finished by spring. The exterior facing of Minnesota granite and Bedford limestone is being put in place giving the lower floors and entrances the first semblance of their final appearance.

## UNPREJUDICED TOMCAT

A brindle tomcat named Big Boy follows Philip Stewart around like a pet gander. Philip collects old papers in Foggy Bottom and lives on I Street. His cat goes with him on his rounds, tail high in the air, the little bell on his collar tinkling as he trots along at Philip's heels. Big Boy is popular with cats of the opposite sex in the neighborhood, and he has no color or race prejudice. Some of his best friends in fact are Persians and Siamese.



## OUR JANUARY MEETING

Most of the time at the monthly meeting held January 26 was taken up with discussion of problems related to the proposed West Leg of the Inner Loop, and to proposed permits that are pending for large apartment houses in the Bottom opposed by the Association. About 50 people attended the meeting, which was held in St. Paul's Parish Hall. Coffee was served.

## WAXWORKS REWRITE HISTORY

Bill Gold recently interviewed Frank Dennis in The DISTRICT LINE, Gold's column in the Washington Post and Times Herald, to straighten out a couple of matters of disputed historical accuracy regarding the National Historical Waxworks Museum at 500 26th St. Dennis insists that the three ships Columbus sailed to the New World were named Pinta, Santa Maria, and Santa Clara. Nina was the nickname of the Santa Clara--that explains how she got into our history books. Dennis has also researched us out of another cherished datum of American history. The Declaration of Independence was not signed on July 4, 1776, according to Dennis, but much later. And while he was at it, Dennis gave out 2 other disquieting items of historical fact--Dolly Madison spelled her name Dolley and Davey Crockett spelled his name Davy.



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**THEATER PARTY AT ARENA -- DINNER AT WATER GATE**

The Foggy Bottom Restoration Association is planning a Foggy Bottom Night at the Arena Theater Friday night, February 27.

As a prominent Washington institution located in the Bottom, the Arena Theater deserves our support.

The performance will be the well known play by Turgenev, "A Month in the Country." To make this an even more gala event, arrangements have been made at the Water Gate Inn for dinner preceding the show. Dinner at 7 will give us ample time to eat and arrive at Arena Stage a blockaway for the 8:30 curtain.

Theater tickets are \$3.25 each. You pay for your dinner at the restaurant. Check the blocks below for the number of tickets and dinner reservations you want, and send us with your check no later than February 16 so that your tickets can be mailed to you.

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## REGARD HIM WITH REVERENCE

We've always admired that noble horse, George Washington's mount in the bronze statue of Washington created by Clark Mills, which stands in the center of Washington Circle. But the horse, though he looks noble in bronze, wasn't heroic under fire in real life.

In creating the statue, the sculptor had in mind a dramatic incident at the Battle of Princeton, won against overwhelming odds through the genius and courage of General Washington.

After several ineffectual efforts to rally his troops, Washington spurred his mount to the front, so near to the British lines that the horse balked and stood in terror while the balls of the enemy guns tore up earth around him. The heroic rider, however, sat serene and self-possessed, as befitted his character and temperament.

The brilliance of General Washington's maneuver at Trenton on Christmas night, 1776, after ferrying his troops across the ice-filled Delaware, and the surprise attack on Princeton the following January 3, not only saved the cause of the American Revolution but established the commander's greatness as "first in war." The unexpected turning of the tables in our favor, at the very moment when all seemed lost, was declared by Frederick the Great to be the most brilliant operation in all military history.

Let us salute the great Washington on his birthday with a tribute paid him by a British historian much later. "It was almost unconsciously that men learned to cling to Washington with a trust and faith such as few other men have won," he wrote, "and to regard him with a reverence which still hushes us in the presence of his memory."

## "TO THE BRAVE MEN WHO PERISHED"

A statue in Foggy Bottom that never fails to renew our hope for mankind when we feel the need to be lifted up is the Titanic Memorial which stands silhouetted against the western sky at the foot of New Hampshire Avenue, overlooking the Potomac.

This memorial to the men who perished in the wreck of the Titanic in April 1912 is a figure of a man, facing east, with outstretched arms in the form of a cross. It is carved of pink granite from Westerly, Rhode Island. On the pedestal is inscribed:

"To the brave men who perished in the wreck of the Titanic April 15, 1912. They gave their lives that women and children might be saved."

"Erected by the Women of America"

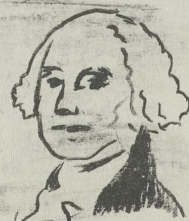
The memorial was erected by the Women's Titanic Memorial Association. Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney was the sculptor, Henry Bacon the architect.



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- DROP IN! - NEIGHBORS -

## The Sheriff Says -

That we have a little bit of hollywood in the Bottom--the Rodel shop in the 2400 blk of G makes movies like those Wilkins ads you see on TV....that its not an annex to Potomac Plaza that is going in on 24th St--its the new building for the University Women....that the Roscoe-Ajax project on 25th st really muddies up the neighborhood....that Col. McGrath will write a sequel to Harold Boutin's book on hospitals....the new traffic lites at N.H. and Va. Aves. are going to gather dust if not turned on soon....that Rhea Radin worried lest the surgery on her vocal cords might change her to soprano...that the best view of the Bottom is from the middle of Key Bridge....that Marjorie Hendricks really had a rough crossing---she got bounced around so much she was hospitalized in Italy....that the police closed the little lunchroom in Snows Court before most of us had a chance to look at the menu...that the ugly sight of the "wall of doors" at 24th and Pa. Ave. will be replaced by a nice shiny apartment house in time...that if you don't get a copy of the Foggy Bottom News blame the membership committee--they deliver it....that the first bulbs are squirting in the Eldridge-Brain-Bobitt park....that we all notice when G W is not in session--the parking situation eases a lot... that we hope you come to the meeting Monday---surprises in store.....

☆ = 3

## GOLD'S LIQUORS -

2501 PA. AVE. - AD-2-7934

AD 2-0793

WHEN YOU'RE THIRSTY CALL GOLD'S -

- BEST THIRST QUENCHER IN TOWN -

— F.B.R.A. —

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

NEXT MONDAY - FEB. 16 - 8:15 P.M.

ST. PAUL'S PARISH HALL - 2430 K ST. N.W.

GREEK COOKIES FROM MELLONAS - COFFEE -

- COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - ALL WELCOME!

[ Feb - March 1959 ]